

## **Adaptive Management**

Why adaptive management is appropriate? Really limited science, so need to have process that brings in new information. Regulatory agencies should take same level of precautionary approach as they would in other aspects of process.

Statutory / regulatory mechanism (e.g., annual IHAs, NTL process, NEPA “significant new information”) appear to be in place for evaluation.

Adaptive management doesn't appear to be applied to the same degree systematically, due to limitations in resources and information, but the process can be improved:

- (1) Need better integration of research and management needs.
- (2) Need regular assessments of species and populations and ecosystem characteristics.
- (3) Integrate all forms of monitoring including from platforms of opportunity.
- (4) Need to identify measurable triggers (e.g., initial distribution and abundance, changes in distribution, strandings, physiological changes)